

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action that was mailed on 05/03/2006, claims 1-29 and 31-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of Chandra, Nesbitt, Adachi, Hussey, Kaji, Kay, Larson, Bach, McFiggins, Gu, Gabbler, Mann, Evans, Ganesan, and DeRoest. The foregoing rejections are respectfully traversed. Claim 30 is allowed.

Claims 1-46 are pending in the subject application, of which claims 1, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, and 31 are independent claims.

In the December 13, 2005 Amendment, the Applicants amended claims 1-5, 16-19, 23-27, and 41-44 to recite “preexisting” word elements or at least one “preexisting” list of word elements.

With regard to independent claims 1, 16, 17, 23, and 24, the Applicants argued that Nesbitt only suggests substitutes based solely on the requested user name. In the example in Nesbitt, if the user requests “scottnesbitt,” the system suggests only names that are formed entirely from the requested user name, e.g., “snesbitt” and “scottn.” Nesbitt does not use any preexisting word elements, nor does Nesbitt draw from a preexisting list of word elements. **Because the requested user name in Nesbitt is not known before it is received, it cannot be preexisting.** The Applicants asserted that independent claims 1, 16, 17, 23, and 24 are patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

With regard to independent claim 31, the Applicants argued that Ganesan does not generate words that are used to identify a user. Ganesan discusses receiving a request to generate a random security password. (Ganesan, col. 22, line 8). Security passwords are understood in the art to be used for authentication of a user, not for identification of the user. The random security passwords in

Ganesan are not relevant to claim 31, which recites a request to generate an account name. In addition, the Applicants argued that Nesbitt only works with a requested account name to suggest an alternative account name. The Applicants noted that claim 31 does not recite receiving any requested account name from a user. In fact, claim 31 specifically recites that no “input or suggestion of names from the user” is used in providing alternate unique account names. The Applicants argued that Nesbitt is not relevant to the subject matter of claim 31 because Nesbitt requires a requested account name and does not suggest any other method of generating account names without receiving a requested account name first. The Applicants asserted that independent claim 31 is patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

In response to the Applicants’ December 13, 2005 claim amendments and arguments, the May 3, 2006 Office Action stated only the following: “The examiner notes the amendments to the claims and the term ‘preexisting’ is obvious.” (5-3-2006 Office Action, p. 2). The Office Action did not cite to any of the references as referring to “preexisting” word elements, nor did the examiner provide any reasons why someone of ordinary skill in the art would consider “preexisting” word elements to be obvious. The Applicants assert that “preexisting” word elements are not obvious. If the examiner is taking official notice that “preexisting” word elements or “preexisting” lists of word elements are well known in the art, the Applicants respectfully traverse the official notice and request that the examiner provide documentary evidence in the next Office Action that supports the examiner’s finding of what’s well known in the art according to the guidelines outlined in MPEP 2144.03. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the examiner reconsider the rejection of the claims.

CONCLUSION

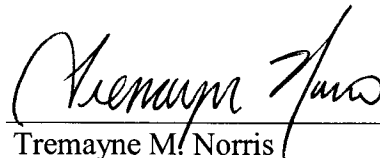
Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested. The remarks herein are to be interpreted only in the context of the specific claims for which they are presented. There being no further objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, which action is courteously requested. Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters. If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Response, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-2112.

Respectfully submitted,

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